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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re: Application of: Heikki NISKANEN
Serial No.: 09/673,981
Filed: October 23, 2000
For: REEL-UP

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 22, 2001

Sir:

Pursuant to M.P.E.P. §609 and 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97-1.99, applicants herewith submit form PTO-1449 which lists references cited in the International Search Report issued in connection with the corresponding International application, during the prosecution of the Finnish priority application, and in the specification of the application. A copy of each reference is submitted herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231" on January 22, 2001.

STEINBERG & RASKIN, P.C.

BY: Annette McPherson

FI 90853 cited during the prosecution of the Finnish priority application corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 4,877,196, a copy of which is enclosed herewith.

DE 3816777 and 19505870 cited in the International Search Report correspond to U.S. Patent Nos. 4,883,233 and 5,785,273 respectively. Copies of U.S. Patent Nos. 4,883,233 and 5,785,273 are enclosed herewith.

A full translation of DE 498962 cited in the International Search Report is not available at this time. However an English language translation of the claims has been provided. It is respectfully submitted that the relevance of this reference can be readily ascertained by referring to the English language translation of the claims provided and the figures of the reference.

FI 74260 cited in the application corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 4,746,076 a copy of which is enclosed herewith. FI 94231 cited in the application corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 5,531,396 a copy of which is enclosed herewith.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists. While the term "references" is used in citing the publications called to the Examiner's attention herein, applicants do not make any admission that each or all of them are "prior art" references within the meaning of the statutory and case law.

Applicants reserve the right to contend, where appropriate, that a reference asserted against any claim of the present application is not prior art under the facts and the law.

Applicants also reserve the right to present appropriate arguments and/or evidence to establish patentability over the references, should one or more of the references be applied against the claims of the present application.

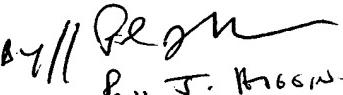
Applicants request that the Examiner independently determine those items which the Examiner would consider the most pertinent of all the references cited herein.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application and prior to the receipt of the first office action on the merits thus no fee is due for its submission.

Respectfully submitted,

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Encls.
PTO-1449
12 References